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From: CN=Mary Grady/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US

Sent: Mon 10/29/2012 3:53:24 PM

Subject: Water Law News for October 29, 2012

[No Air Quality Problems Found in Gas Field Where EPA Linked Fracking to Tainted Water](#)

[BP Liability Trial Moved to Feb. 25; Louisiana Asks for Separate Economic Loss Trial](#)

[House Chairmen Press White House On Continued Delay of Regulatory Agenda](#)

[California Water Diversion Case Probably Headed for Supreme Court, Lawyer Says](#)

[InsideEPA.com - Latest News](#)

[EPA Likely Faces Major Budget Cuts Regardless Of Sequester Talks Outcome](#)

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[EPA May Face Suit To Force Novel Permitting Of New Stormwater Sources](#)

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[2. POLITICS: Hurricane Sandy poses ugly 'October surprise' for both Obama and Romney](#)

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WATER LAW NEWS

OCTOBER 29, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

Drilling

No Air Quality Problems Found in Gas Field

Where EPA Linked Fracking to Tainted Water

DENVER—Wyoming did not find any air quality problems near the Pavillion natural gas field where the Environmental Protection Agency linked groundwater contamination to hydraulic fracturing, the state Department of Environmental...

Oil Spills

BP Liability Trial Moved to Feb. 25; Louisiana

Asks for Separate Economic Loss Trial

HOUSTON—The federal judge presiding over the government's oil spill lawsuit against BP Plc has

postponed the trial's start date until Feb. 25 (In re Oil Spill by the Oil Rig "Deepwater Horizon" in the Gulf of Mexico...

Regulatory Policy

House Chairmen Press White House

On Continued Delay of Regulatory Agenda

The chairmen of the House Judiciary Committee and Oversight and Government Affairs Committee have called on the White House to release a long-delayed regulatory agenda as well as a congressionally mandated report on the costs of federal regulations,...

Water Resources

California Water Diversion Case Probably

Headed for Supreme Court, Lawyer Says

SAN FRANCISCO—A Southern California water rights dispute over whether the federal government owes a water district millions of dollars for diversions is likely to head to the U.S. Supreme Court, water lawyers were told at an Oct. 25...

EPA Likely Faces Major Budget Cuts Regardless Of Sequester Talks Outcome

EPA's budget could face major reductions regardless of whether lawmakers strike a deal to avoid billions of dollars in "sequestration" budget cuts set to take effect in January, sources say, because options being floated as alternatives to the sequestration would likely still result in massive cuts to non-discretionary spending, including EPA's funds.

EPA Rejects IG Call To Define 'Cost Savings,' Citing Limited Flexibility

EPA is rejecting a call from its Inspector General (IG) to define "cost savings" and "efficiencies" after the IG found the lack of such a policy may hamper EPA's cost-cutting ability, with the agency saying that introducing such "formality" could hinder innovation in crafting cost saving efforts.

EPA May Face Suit To Force Novel Permitting Of New Stormwater Sources

Environmentalists are hinting that they may sue EPA to force the agency to complete its precedent-setting plan to subject previously unregulated stormwater sources, such as parking lots, in three Massachusetts towns to Clean Water Act (CWA) permit requirements, even as states' questions about the scope of that authority continue to escalate.

ClimateWire will be the only E&E service to publish on Monday, due to disruptions associated with Hurricane Sandy

GULF SPILL:

BP plugs the leak thought to be responsible for oily sheen

Published: Friday, October 26, 2012

BP PLC said yesterday that it has capped and plugged an abandoned piece of equipment that the company believes caused an oily sheen to appear on the Gulf of Mexico last month near the site of the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion and oil spill.

The company placed a 750-pound cap over the 86-ton steel container, which in 2010 had been lowered over a leaking pipe in a failed attempt to funnel oil to the surface. Plugs were inserted on the top and sides of the container.

No oil has been seen leaking out of the container since it was capped, both BP and the Coast Guard said.

The Coast Guard has told the company to submit a plan for removing the remaining oil from the container or removing the container itself. In a statement, Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) said both the oil and wreckage left behind after the spill should be removed.

"We shouldn't have to wait for the next leak to plug another problem," he said (AP/Washington Post, Oct. 25). -- JE.

ClimateWire -- Mon., October 29, 2012 -- Read the full edition

1. STORM: Extremely dangerous hurricane aims at New York City and mid-East Coast areas

As Hurricane Sandy bears down on the East Coast, federal forecasters are warning that the massive storm could bring "life-threatening" storm surges, flooding, hurricane-force winds, heavy rain and even blizzardlike snowfall over an area stretching from the Carolinas to Canada, and west to Ohio. The slow-moving storm, a rare and powerful hybrid of hurricane and nor'easter, is expected to make landfall in New Jersey later today. Officials say 50 million to 60 million people lie in the storm's likely path, leaving one of the most densely populated areas of the country vulnerable to floods and multi-day power outages.

2. POLITICS: Hurricane Sandy poses ugly 'October surprise' for both Obama and Romney

After stepping lightly around potential global warming-related weather impacts during much of his re-election campaign, President Obama signed an emergency order yesterday mobilizing federal resources and aid to deal with the impacts of a rare storm that could punish New York City and surrounding areas with devastating high winds and flooding.

TODAY'S STORIES

3. RENEWABLE ENERGY: U.K. company develops carbon-neutral liquid fuel system from air and water
4. HEALTH: Pine-beetle-ravaged forests could pollute water -- study
5. ELECTRICITY: In a nod to new FERC rules, regional grid operator paves the way for more renewables
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E&ETV's OnPoint

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